

cleared. But for him, that would not have been done tonight.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2704 AND S. 2714

Mr. FRIST. I understand there are two bills at the desk which are due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2704) to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to cover certain legal immigrants under the Medicaid and State children's health insurance programs.

A bill (S. 2714) to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as added by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, to provide for negotiation of fair prices for Medicare prescription drugs.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings on the measures en bloc at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 133, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 133) declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, today the Senate is taking historic action, stating clearly that the atrocities occurring in Darfur are genocide, reminding the world of its obligations under the Genocide Convention, and calling on the administration to lead an international effort to stop the genocide. This resolution, which I introduced with my colleague, SAM BROWNBACK, has broad, bipartisan support, and its unanimous approval by the U.S. Senate sends a powerful message—that this body will not remain silent as genocide occurs.

The situation remains, as U.N. officials have called it, “the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe.” At least 30,000 have been killed. Mr. President, 1.2 million have been violently displaced from their villages, of whom 200,000 have fled to Chad. The potential death toll is horrifying. Andrew Natsios, Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, has predicted that 300,000 will die this year, even in an “optimistic” scenario in which humanitarian assistance is provided, and that up to one million are at risk.

This disaster is the result of the deliberate policies of the Government of

Sudan and the “janjaweed” militias under its control. Earlier this week, Human Rights Watch reported how Sudanese government documents themselves prove Khartoum’s complicity. Those documents describe, in plain terms, the government’s military support for the militias—its, quote “loyalist tribes”—and its policy of tolerating the abuse of civilians by the militias.

What has been the result? Janjaweed militias, along with Sudanese forces, have engaged in systematic attacks against civilians in Darfur. As recently confirmed by U.S. Government satellite photographs, villages have been burnt to the ground. Livestock and food stock have been destroyed, and water sources poisoned. Humanitarian assistance has been denied. Militias have murdered civilians and abducted children.

Just this week, on Monday, Amnesty International issued a report describing how rape has been used as a weapon of war in Darfur. Amnesty described how women and girls as young as 8 have been raped and abducted, often with the involvement or acquiescence of Sudanese authorities. Janjaweed militia have raped women in public, in front of their families, with the intent of adding humiliation to the violence. Amnesty reports gang rapes, rapes of pregnant women, and torture and killings in the context of sexual violence. Darfuri women, who are often reluctant to talk about these experiences, nonetheless described how they were abducted and held captive during the day, when militia members were looting villages, so that they could be raped at night. Amnesty reported how rapes have occurred during attacks on villages, during the flight of civilians, and in the camps, all with total impunity. Not a single member of the janjaweed or the Sudanese armed forces have been charged with committing rape or abducting civilians.

In addition to stopping this violence, we must act now to prevent death from starvation and disease. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are currently crowded into camps, where conditions are simply stated, horrendous. Humanitarian organizations now estimate that nearly half of the internationally displaced civilians in Darfur have inadequate food and shelter, that 61 percent lack sufficient water, and that 87 percent lack adequate sanitation. Many of the camps are off limits to international relief workers, and much of the countryside is inaccessible as well.

The rains are adding to the obstacles presented to the humanitarian organizations. So, too, is the lack of security created by the militias and Sudanese forces. The result may be a complete break in the food pipeline, and the deaths of hundreds of thousands. As U.N. Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland said last week, “We are now in this moment of truth, which will last for some weeks.”

Along with my colleague, Senator BROWNBACK, I have introduced a resolu-

tion declaring the situation in Darfur to be genocide. Why is this so? To begin with, it is undisputed that the murders, rapes, abductions of children, displacements and denial of humanitarian assistance have been directed at particular ethnic groups, specifically the ethnically African groups—the Fur, Zaghawa, and Massalit. Both the U.S. and the U.N. have stated that “ethnic cleansing” is occurring. The U.S. Ambassador for War Crimes, Pierre-Richard Prosper, has said that there are “indicators of genocide.”

What does the Genocide Convention of 1948 state? It defines genocide as killing, causing serious bodily harm, and deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction—all of which have occurred in Darfur—committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. The Convention does not require that a certain number have died before it is genocide, only that the acts are occurring.

This declaration is important because of our obligation—and that of the world—to stop genocide before it is too late. After all, the full name of the Genocide Convention is the “Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.” Article I of the Convention states that the contracting parties “undertake to prevent and punish” genocide. The United States and every other permanent member of the U.N. Security Council is a party to the Genocide Convention.

The Genocide Convention arose out of the horror of the Holocaust, in a moment of history in which the world vowed never again to permit this evil. But the world has spoken much more recently. In late January 2004, 55 governments participated in the Stockholm International Forum, “Preventing Genocide; Threats and Responsibilities.” Those governments, which included the U.S., the U.K., France and Russia, declared, quote:

The Holocaust . . . challenged the foundations of human civilization . . . We are committed to shouldering our responsibility to protect groups identified as potential victims of genocide, mass murder or ethnic cleansing, drawing upon the range of tools at our disposal to prevent such atrocities in accordance with international law and fully upholding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

This was this January. What do these words mean without action? More words, mere condemnations are not sufficient. Nor is humanitarian assistance possible without real intervention. The lack of food, water and sanitation have reached critical levels. But the problem is caused, and compounded, by the lack of security. As Jan Egeland said last week, quote “The number one problem now is lack of security. Our trucks are looted, our humanitarian workers are threatened and attacked.”

We must find ways to stop this catastrophe. This resolution calls on the President to lead an international effort to stop this genocide. In my view,